Reviewer's report

Title: Long-term mortality in HIV patients virally suppressed for more than three years with incomplete CD4 recovery: A cohort study.

Version: 7 Date: 8 August 2010

Reviewer: Rui Wang

Reviewer's report:

The authors have provided adequate responses to most of my previous comments in their revision.

I have two follow-up comments.

1. Regarding to the previous "Major Compulsory Revision" comment: To address the question whether the excess mortality seen among the INRs was mainly related to prolonged immunological suppression prior to successful HAART, a formal statistical test would be an interaction test. This can be done by putting an interaction term (INR status and yes/no to prolonged immunological suppression prior to successful HAART) in the Cox regression model. A significant interaction term would indicate that excess mortality seen in INRs among those with prolonged immunological suppression prior to successful HAART differs from that among those without. Similarly for IDUs. Please add these results in.

2. Regarding to the 1st "Minor Essential Revision" comment: Please incorporate the answers in the paper.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.